PLSL

E NRD

2	CITY OF UKIAH	
3	405 W. Perkins Street Ukiah, CA 95482	
. 4	Telephone: (707) 462-6846 Facsimile: (707) 462-4235	
5	Attorneys for Defendant CITY OF UKIAH	3
6	Rick W. Jarvis, SBN: 154479	8
7	Benjamin P. Fay, SBN: 178856 Daniel P. Doporto, SBN: 176192	28 NOV 28
8	JARVIS, FAY & DOPORTO, LLP 475 14 <sup>TH</sup> Street, Suite 260 Oakland, CA 94612	면 6:
10	Telephone: (510) 238-1400 Facsimile: (510) 238-1404	5
11	Email: <u>rjarvis@jarvisfay.com</u>	
12	Attorneys for Defendants CITY OF UKIAH and UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT	
13	SIMITITION DISTRICT	
14	UNITED STATES DIST	FRICT COURT
		. 1 */1
15	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFO	RNIA - OAKLAND DIVISIO
15 16	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFO	NO PELLENGUE
16 17	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFO  NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH, a non-profit corporation,	CASE NO: C04 4518 CW
16	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH,	NOV 29
16 17 18	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH, a non-profit corporation,	CASE NO: C04 4518 CW  NOTICE OF PROPOSED  OUTPELL ATE SECTION  NOTICE OF PROPOSED
16 17 18 19	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH, a non-profit corporation,  Plaintiff,  v.  CITY OF UKIAH; UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through	CASE NO: C04 4518 CW  NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE AND
16 17 18 19 20	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH, a non-profit corporation,  Plaintiff,  v.  CITY OF UKIAH; UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,	CASE NO: C04 4518 CW  NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE AND ORDER
16 17 18 19 20 21	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH, a non-profit corporation,  Plaintiff,  v.  CITY OF UKIAH; UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through	CASE NO: C04 4518 CW  NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE AND
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH, a non-profit corporation,  Plaintiff,  v.  CITY OF UKIAH; UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,	CASE NO: C04 4518 CW  NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE AND ORDER  Complaint Filed: 10/6/04
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH, a non-profit corporation,  Plaintiff,  v.  CITY OF UKIAH; UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,	CASE NO: C04 4518 CW  NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE AND ORDER  Complaint Filed: 10/6/04 2nd Amended Complaint Filed: 6/13/05
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH, a non-profit corporation,  Plaintiff,  v.  CITY OF UKIAH; UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,  Defendants,	CASE NO: C04 4518 CW  NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE AND ORDER  Complaint Filed: 10/6/04 2nd Amended Complaint Filed: 6/13/05  reby given that the parties have approved a
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH, a non-profit corporation,  Plaintiff,  v.  CITY OF UKIAH; UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,  Defendants,  /  Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1365(c)(3), notice is here	CASE NO: C04 4518 CW  NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE AND ORDER  Complaint Filed: 10/6/04 2nd Amended Complaint Filed: 6/13/05  reby given that the parties have approved a  Consent Decree and Order, a copy of which is

1	and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Parties shall apply to the Court for		
2	approval of this consent decree after the expiration of this 45-day review period.		
3	Dated: November 21, 2005	JARVIS FAY & DOPORTO, LLP	
4			
5		By: Rick W. Jarvis	
6 7		Attorneys for Defendants CITY OF UKIAH and UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT	
8			
9			
10			
11	J:\Clients\107 [Ukiah]\[002 Riverwatch II]\Plead\Notice of Propo	sed Consent Decree.wpd	
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23		-	
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			

1 2	David Rapport, City Attorney, SBN: 54384 CITY OF UKIAH RAPPORT & MARSTON	•	
3	405 W. Perkins Street Ukiah, CA 95482		
4	Telephone: (707) 462-6846 Facsimile: (707) 462-4235	•	
5	Attorneys for Defendant CITY OF UKIAH		
6 7	Rick W. Jarvis, SBN: 154479 Benjamin P. Fay, SBN: 178856 Daniel P. Donorto, SBN: 176102		
8	Daniel P. Doporto, SBN: 176192 JARVIS, FAY & DOPORTO, LLP 475 14 <sup>TH</sup> Street, Suite 260		
9	Oakland, CA 94612 Telephone: (510) 238-1400		
10	Facsimile: (510) 238-1404 Email: rjarvis@jarvisfay.com		
11	Attorneys for Defendants		
12	CITY OF UKIAH and UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT		
13 14	UNITED STATES DIS	TDICT COLIDT	
15	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFO	·	ION
16	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFO	MIIA - OAKLAND DIVIS	
17	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH,	CASE NO: <b>C04 4518 CW</b>	·
18	a non-profit corporation,		
19	Plaintiff,	[PROPOSED] CONSENT ORDER	DECREE ANI
20	v.		
21	CITY OF UKIAH; UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,	Complaint Filed: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Amended Complaint Filed:	10/6/04 6/13/05
22	Defendants,		
23			•
24		•	, ,
25			
26			
27			
28			

 RECITALS

A. The City of Ukiah ("the City") owns, operates, and maintains a wastewater collection system within the City and a wastewater treatment plant. The City also performs maintenance under contract on additional collection lines located outside the City, which are owned by the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District ("the District"). Wastewater from the collection lines is treated at the treatment plant. During the summer months (May 15 through September 1), treated wastewater is disposed of through discharge into percolation ponds. During the winter months (September 1 through May 14), treated wastewater is discharged into the Russian River and the percolation ponds. The Regional Water Quality Control Board for the North Coast Region ("the Regional Board") has issued Order No. 99-65, regulating the City's treatment plant. This Order serves both as "Waste Discharge Requirements" pursuant to state law, and as an "NPDES Permit" under the federal Clean Water Act.

- B. Plaintiff Northern California River Watch ("River Watch") has brought this action pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1365 alleging that the City and the District have violated and are continuing to violate the NPDES Permit in various respects. The alleged violations are set forth in letters from River Watch to the City (letter dated August 13, 2004) and the District (letter dated April 13, 2005). True and correct copies of these letters are attached hereto as **Exhibits A** and **B** and incorporated herein by reference.
- C. River Watch, the City, and the District have consented to the entry of this Consent
  Decree and Order without trial of any issues, and hereby stipulate that, in order to settle the claims
  alleged against the District and the City in River Watch's complaint, this Consent Decree should be
  entered. This Consent Decree constitutes a settlement of disputed claims. It is not an admission of
  jurisdiction over or liability for any claims or an admission of any fact. Should this proposed Consent
  Decree fail to be entered for any reason, this proposed Consent Decree, and any statement or other
  provision contained in this proposed Consent Decree shall have no legal effect and shall not be used for
  any purpose in any subsequent proceeding in this or any other litigation.

#### CONSENT DECREE

In light of the foregoing Recitals, the Parties agree to the entry of a Consent Decree containing the terms set forth below:

#### I. <u>JURISDICTION</u>

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties in this action pursuant to Section 505 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365. The complaint filed by River Watch states a claim upon which relief can be granted pursuant to Section 505 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365.
- 2. Venue is proper in this Northern District of California pursuant to Section 505(c)(1) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(1), because this is the judicial district in which the District's wastewater treatment plant is located.

#### II. APPLICABILITY AND BINDING EFFECT

3. This Consent Decree shall apply to and be binding upon River Watch, the District, the City, and their respective employees, agents, successors, and assigns. To the extent that federal law (including federal principles of res judicata) allows, this Consent Decree shall also be found binding upon other private parties who may hereafter file a citizen suit against the District or the City for alleged violations of the Clean Water Act which have been alleged in this action. However, this Consent Decree shall not be construed to limit the authority of the United States under Section 309 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319, or of the State of California (including the Regional Board) under California law.

#### III. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

- 4. In order to settle River Watch's claim for injunctive relief against future alleged violations, the City and the District shall exercise their best efforts to implement the specific measures described below. Each of these measures require the City or the District to take actions over and above those actions they have historically taken, in order to substantially reduce the potential for NPDES Permit violations in the future.
- 5. As used herein, the term "date of this Consent Decree" shall refer to the date this Consent Decree is executed by the Court.
- 6. In order to help reduce infiltration and inflow, the City and the District (as specified below) shall implement the following measures:
  - a. Within four years of the date of this Consent Decree, the City shall complete a televideo inspection of all City and District sewer mains, to identify any maintenance issues or improper cross-connections.

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

- b. Within one year of the date of this Consent Decree, the City shall implement a sewer lateral inspection, repair, and/or replacement program within the City of Ukiah. Such a program shall include mandatory sewer lateral inspection at point of sale and in conjunction with sewer main repair or replacement. Repair or replacement of sewer laterals shall proceed according to the need indicated by inspection. This program need not apply to inter-family transfers, trust transfers, or transfers via inheritance.
- c. Within one year of the date of this agreement, the District shall implement a sewer lateral inspection, repair, and/or replacement program within the area served by the District. The District shall comply with this requirement by adopting a program which meets one of the following two sets of criteria:
  - (1) Such a program may consist of a requirement for mandatory sewer lateral inspections at point of sale and in conjunction with sewer main repair or replacement. Repair or replacement of sewer laterals shall proceed according to the need indicated by inspection. Such a program need not require inspections for the following sales of property:
    - (i) Inter-family transfers, trust transfers, or transfers via inheritance.
    - (ii) Sales of property where the cost of the property is less than\$500,000. This figure may be indexed pursuant to a reasonable cost-of-living adjustment starting after five years.
    - (iii) Sales of properties whose sewer laterals are more than 500 feet from streams or other surface waters which flow into the Russian River.
    - (iv) Sales of properties whose sewer laterals have already been inspected within the last 25 years, where the sewer lateral is made with PVC, metal, or other modern material meeting the requirements of the current Uniform Plumbing Code or equivalent building code.

- (v) Sales of properties whose sewer laterals have already been inspected within the last 10 years, where the sewer lateral is not made with PVC, metal, or other modern material meeting the requirements of the current Uniform Plumbing Code or equivalent building code.
- (vi) Sales of structures whose laterals were last installed or replaced within the last 25 years, where the sewer lateral is made with PVC, metal, or other modern material meeting the requirements of the current Uniform Plumbing Code or equivalent building code.
- where inspections are not necessarily triggered by property sales, but may be prioritized using other criteria (such as age and type of lateral piping material). Such a program shall be sufficient so long as the program is reasonably designed to provide for inspection of 20% of existing sewer laterals within the District within the first 7 years, including a mechanism to provide funding necessary for such inspections. Where the inspections disclose defects in the sewer laterals, the program shall require repair and/or replacement, as necessary. The terms of the alternative program shall be subject to the review and consent of River Watch, but River Watch may not unreasonably withhold its consent so long as the program satisfies the requirements set forth in this paragraph.

Following adoption of one of these programs, the District retains the discretion to modify the program as it finds appropriate, so long as the program continues to comply with the requirements of (1) or (2) above (including being subject to the review and consent of River Watch, which consent may not be unreasonably withheld, as set forth in (2) above).

d. The City and the District are unaware of any illegal connections to their sewer collection lines. The City and the District shall require elimination of any such

illegal connections of which they hereafter become aware, including any storm drains or basement sump pumps, within one year of learning of them.

- 7. In order to address the potential for overflows from the collection system, the City shall, within one year of the date of this Consent Decree, develop additional, more detailed protocols for the initial field reporting of collection system overflows from the City and District sewer lines, in order to provide a clear record of any such overflows. These protocols shall include the following information:
  - a. Identification of the person who received the call reporting the incident and who dispatched the clean-up and repair crew; the time of the call; the location of the spill or problem; and the name of the person reporting the call. The staff person receiving the call shall ask the caller for his or her name, address, phone number, duration of the observed problem, and knowledge of any history of prior problems in the same area, along with any other comments the caller might wish to make.
    Answers shall be recorded on an intake form or other service sheet.
  - b. The service crews shall record the following information: (a) the time of the crews' arrival and departure, (b) whether the overflow was ongoing at the time of arrival, (c) estimated gallons per minute; (d) estimated duration of the overflow;
    (e) whether the overflow reached a storm drain or surface water; (f) measures taken to repair the system and remediate the damage; and (g) cleaning protocols including whether any chemicals were discharged in the course of clean up.
  - c. The City understands that the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board has developed a draft sanitary sewer overflow and monitoring program, and the City shall monitor further development of this program, and shall consider modifications to the City's own spill reporting and response program when the S.F. Regional Board's program is implemented (notwithstanding the fact that the City is not within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board).
- 8. The City and the District understand that the Regional Board is considering implementing regulations for operating collection systems, sometimes referred to as Capacity,

Management, Operation and Maintenance ("CMOM") regulations. In maintaining the collection lines of the City and the District, the City shall comply with all applicable CMOM regulations adopted by the Regional Board. This consent decree shall be without prejudice to the right of River Watch to file additional legal or administrative action against the City and/or the District in the future challenging their compliance with any applicable CMOM regulations, but the City and the District reserve all legal defenses they have to any such actions, including any available jurisdictional challenges.

9. Within 18 months from the effective date of this agreement, the City shall, subject to the approval of the Regional Board, have installed at least one additional groundwater monitoring well, located down gradient from the City's percolation ponds and between the ponds and the Russian River. The City shall submit a proposal to the Regional Board, making a good faith attempt to have the well placed in a location well suited to assess the effects of the ponds on the water quality of the surrounding aquifer and the Russian River. River Watch shall have the opportunity to comment upon this proposal. If the Regional Board finds that this one additional groundwater monitoring well, together with the existing monitoring wells, does not adequately characterize the potential groundwater impacts of the percolation ponds, the Board may require the City to construct one more well (for a total of two additional wells). This agreement is subject to the City acquiring necessary property rights from an adjacent landowner, but the City will use its best efforts to do so. The City shall include sampling results from the monitoring wells in the monthly self monitoring reports.

#### IV. SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

- 10. Within one (1) year of the approval and entry of this Settlement Agreement, the City shall undertake a healthy waterways study, the cost of which to the City shall not exceed \$35,000.00, including consultant fees and expenses, and excluding internal City staff costs. The study shall be performed in accordance with the following requirements:
  - a. The study shall consist of sampling for potential human markers as set forth in the protocol for the study, which shall be developed by the City within six (6) months of the execution of this Agreement. The protocol shall be provided to River Watch for approval, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. River Watch shall return, in writing, any comments it may have on the protocol within

- twenty-one (21) days of submittal by the City.
- b. The purpose of the study shall be to determine whether elevated levels of human markers indicating sewage pollution exist in the surface water of the Russian River and selected feeder creek(s) within the City of Ukiah. Creeks shall be selected for sampling based on their proximity to sewage lines. The creeks closest to the oldest lines where structural defects have been identified shall receive the highest priority. The City shall make a good faith effort to sample all of the highest priority creeks within the limits of the available budget. If elevated levels of human sewage markers are found, one study objective is to determine if there is any correlation between potential leakage from sanitary sewers which are proximate to the impacted waters and the contamination found in those segments of the creek(s) or River. If it is determined that a positive correlation exists between the condition of proximate sewers and creek water quality related to human sewage markers, the City shall use the study results to prioritize sewer inspection activities. All creek sample results shall be provided to River Watch for its review. The City shall act in good faith to take the results of these studies into account in its maintenance activities with respect to its sewage collection lines, in determining whether to repair or replace any of its lines, and in prioritizing the repair and/or replacement of its sewer lines.
- c. The details of the study shall be more specifically determined and set forth in the protocol yet to be developed. The City shall develop a protocol which shall attempt to address several approaches, including a study that provides for sampling at one or more feeder creeks (hopefully non-ephemeral creeks) at first flush and low flow, as well as at wet weather flow conditions. One marker which shall be evaluated for use is that of caffeine. Caffeine or some other similar marker shall be used for initial testing. To the extent that marker is found in the study areas at a level which suggests potential sewage related pollution, follow up sampling for fecal coliform and nutrients shall occur. The protocol shall set forth

appropriate locations for sampling including, potentially, sampling at the mouth of feeder creek(s). The City shall use its best efforts to prepare the protocol in such a manner to maximize the achievement of the objectives set forth in these paragraphs 2 and 3. Although the protocol may modify these suggested approaches as needed to provide a sound, cost effective study, the City shall act in good faith to undertake the study in a manner which has the best potential to demonstrate a correlation, or lack of correlation, between creek pollution and the condition of adjacent sanitary sewers at a cost within the available budget.

d. The City shall provide the County Department of Health Services (DHS), or other local agency responsible for monitoring recreational waters and beaches with regard to sanitation and healthfulness, including the posting of public notices, with creek water quality testing results and aid said agency in taking appropriate efforts to protect the public using recreational waters and beaches, including posting warning signs if found to be appropriate.

### V. <u>SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS</u>

- 11. Upon the entry of this Consent Decree, River Watch, on behalf of itself and its members, successors, and assigns, agrees that it releases, acquits, and forever discharges the City, its City Council, the District, its Board, and all employees thereof, from all claims, rights, liabilities, and causes of action arising from or connected with the events referred to, or which could have been referred to, in River Watch's Notice of Intent or the Complaint in this lawsuit, including without limitation, all claims for violations of the Clean Water Act or the Porter Cologne Act, or any other federal or state law, which occurred at any time up to and including the effective date of this Consent Decree.
- 12. The releases set forth in this Consent Decree are not conditioned upon timely compliance by the District or the City with the payment and other obligations of this Consent Decree, and River Watch agrees that its exclusive remedies for a breach of this Consent Decree by the District or the City shall be to move the Court for specific performance, contempt and any other remedies which the law provides for such a breach. The releases set forth in this Consent Decree extend to unknown as well as known claims. River Watch hereby waives the benefits of section 1542 of the California Civil Code,

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

which provides as follows:

"A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release which if known by him must have materially affected the settlement with debtor."

- 13. In further consideration of the City's and the District's agreement to enter into this Consent Decree, River Watch, for itself, its members, successors and assigns, covenants and agrees not to sue or take any other steps to enforce any claims, rights, liabilities, or causes of action released hereby. Furthermore, River Watch, for itself and its members, successors and assigns, agrees and covenants that it will not file any lawsuits for any violations of the Clean Water Act or Porter Cologne Act committed by the City or the District during the five (5) year period from the effective date of this Consent Decree, and that River Watch's sole remedy against the District or the City during this period shall be to enforce this Consent Decree by motion for court order. River Watch further covenants and agrees that, at least sixty (60) days before filing any such motion with the Court, it shall notify the City in writing of what actions or inactions by the City it deems to be in violation of this Consent Decree. Thereafter, the parties shall meet and confer in a good faith attempt to resolve their disputes hereunder. If the parties cannot informally resolve the dispute, they will make a good faith effort to mediate the case under the ADR Rules of the Northern District of California prior to the filing of any motion to enforce this Consent Decree. The auspices of the ADR office of this Court may be used to effectuate such mediation.
- as the basis for any injunction against, any action, suit or other proceeding which may be instituted, prosecuted or attempted in breach of this Consent Decree, whether by the parties hereto, any of River Watch's members, successors or assigns, or any third party seeking to assert rights held by the public or any member thereof, whether under the doctrines of res judicata, collateral estoppel, breach of contract or any other law applicable to consent decrees. River Watch covenants and agrees not to cause any third party to commence a citizen's suit under the Clean Water Act for any permit violations which occurred prior to the effective of the Consent Decree or at any time while this Court retains jurisdiction to enforce

#### VI. ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS

- 15. Within fifteen (15) days of entry of the Consent Decree by the Court, the City and the District agree to pay River Watch \$45,000 to settle its claim for attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action. This payment shall satisfy in full all claims by River Watch for attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action, including any fees and costs associated with the monitoring of compliance with this Settlement Agreement, with the exception of attorney's fees and costs incurred in the course of enforcing this Settlement Agreement in a court of law or by arbitration or mediation. The City's check in payment of these fees shall be made payable to Northern California River Watch.
  - 16. The District and the City shall bear their own attorneys' fees and costs.

#### VII. NOTICE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

17. The Parties acknowledge and agree that entry of this Consent Decree is subject to the requirements of Section 505(c)(3) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(3), which provides that "[n]o consent judgment shall be entered in an action in which the United States is not a party prior to 45 days following receipt of a copy of the proposed consent judgment by the Attorney General and the [EPA] Administrator." Following the Parties' execution of this document, the City shall serve copies upon the EPA Administrator, the Attorney General, and the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX in San Francisco, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 135.5(a).

### VIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

18. All communications between River Watch and Defendant shall be made as follows:

a. To the City: City Manager
City of Ukiah
300 Seminary

300 Seminary Avenue Ukiah, CA 95482

With a copy to: Rick W. Jarvis

Jarvis, Fay & Doporto, LLP 475 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 260 Oakland, CA 94612

b. To the District: Board of Directors

Ukiah Valley Sanitation District 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010

Ukiah, CA 95482

c. To River Watch:

River Watch

6741 Sebastopol Ave, Suite 140

Sebastopol, CA 95472

With a copy to:

Jack Silver, Esq.

Law Office of Jack Silver

P.O. Box 5469

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

- 19. This Consent Decree and its terms shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon each of the parties and each and all of their respective predecessors, successors, assignees, buyers, grantees, vendees or transferees and their past or present, direct or indirect, partners, parents, subsidiaries or divisions as though they were parties to this action.
- 20. Each of the parties have been fully advised by their attorney as to this Consent Decree and all provisions contained within it, or have decided voluntarily to forego such advice with the full understanding of the repercussions of so doing, and acknowledge signing this Consent Decree based solely upon the written representations contained in this Consent Decree and not based on any inducement, promise or representation not expressly stated in this Consent Decree. Additionally, each of the parties acknowledges, in signing this Consent Decree, that it constitutes the full, complete, and entirety of the terms and conditions agreed to by them in settling the dispute between them.
- 21. The City and the District covenant and agree that, before commencing any action or motion to enforce the terms of this Consent Decree, they will provide River Watch with the same 60-day notice, meet and confer procedure and mediation rights as are set forth in Paragraph 13 above.
- 22. This Consent Decree is made and entered into under the laws of the State of California and the United States and shall be interpreted, governed and enforced pursuant to these laws.
- 23. Should any provision of this Consent Decree be held invalid or illegal, such illegality shall not invalidate the remainder of this Consent Decree. In that event, this Consent Decree shall be construed as if it did not contain the invalid or illegal part, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced accordingly.
- 24. The parties have mutually negotiated this Consent Decree and the doctrine of contra proferentum does not apply.
  - 25. Each signatory of this Consent Decree signing on behalf of another, warrants that he or

1	she has the authority to sign on behalf of said person or entity and all persons covered by this Consent			
2	Decree. This Consent Decree may be executed in counterparts with each counterpart being interpreted			
3	as an original.			
4	IX. <u>RETENTION OF JURISDICTION</u>			
5	26. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms and conditions of this Consent			
6	Decree and to resolve any disputes arising hereunder for a period of five years from its entries. After			
7	this five years has elapsed, the City and the District's obligation to comply with the injunctive relief			
8	provided for herein shall terminate.			
9	IT IS SO AGREED AND ST	IPULATED:		
10	Dated, 2005	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH		
11				
12		By: Its:		
13	-	165.		
14	Dated, 2005	CITY OF UKIAH		
15				
16		By:		
17				
18	Dated, 2005	UKIAH VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT		
19				
20		By:		
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				

1	APPROVED AS TO FORM:			
2	Dated:, 2005	LAW OFFICES	OF JACK SILVER	
3 4 5		By:	rnhaut aintiff NORTHERN CA	ALIFORNIA
6	Dated:, 2005	JARVIS FAY &	DOPORTO, LLP	
7 8		By: Rick W. Attorneys for D.	Jarvis efendants CITY OF LIK	TAH and UKIAH
9		VALLEY SAN	efendants CITY OF UK TATION DISTRICT	driff and Other Mi
10	IT IS SO ORDERED.			
11 12	Dated and entered into this	day of	, 2006.	
13				
14 15		CLAUDIA WILKEN United States District Junited States	udge	-
16	J:\Clients\107 [Ukiah]\[002 Riverwatch II]\Plead\Conse	ent Decree 11-10-05.wpd		
17 18				
19				•
20	·			•
21				
22				
23 24				
24 25			,	
26				
27				
28				

1	she has the authority to sign on behalf of said person or entity and all persons covered by this Consent				
2	Decree. This Consent Decree may be executed in counterparts with each counterpart being interpreted				
3	as an original.				
4	4 IX. <u>RETENTION OF JURISDICTION</u>	IX. <u>RETENTION OF JURISDICTION</u>			
5	5 26. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to enfo	rce the terms and conditions of this Consent			
6	Decree and to resolve any disputes arising hereunder for a period of five years from its entries. After				
7	7 this five years has elapsed, the City and the District's obl	this five years has elapsed, the City and the District's obligation to comply with the injunctive relief			
8	8 provided for herein shall terminate.				
9	9 IT IS SO AGREED AND STIPULATED:				
10	10 Dated 11/17, 2005 NORTHER	N CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH			
11	11	and .			
12	12 By:	= 171/a-l			
13	13				
14	14 Dated //-/4, 2005 CITY OF U	KIAH			
15	15				
16	By By	H Share			
17	17				
18	18 Dated, 2005 UKIAH VA	LLEY SANITATION DISTRICT			
19	19				
20	By: Its:				
21	21				
22	22				
23	23				
1	24				
25	25				
26	26				
27	27				
28	28				

1.	she has the authority to sign on behalf of said person or entity and all persons covered by this Consent				
2	Decree. This Consent Decree may be executed in counterparts with each counterpart being interpreted				
3	as an original.				
4	IX. <u>RETENTION OF JURISDICTION</u>				
5	5 26. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to en	force the terms and conditions of this Consent			
6	Decree and to resolve any disputes arising hereunder for a period of five years from its entries. After				
7	this five years has elapsed, the City and the District's obligation to comply with the injunctive relief				
8	8 provided for herein shall terminate.	·			
9	9 IT IS SO AGREED AND STIPULATED:				
0	0 Dated, 2005 NORTHE	RN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH			
1					
12	By: Its:				
13		<del> </del>			
4	14 Dated 11-14, 2005 CITY OF	UKIAH			
ا5	15				
16	By: Its:	Harly L			
17		to the same			
18	18 Dated, 2005 UKIAH V	ALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT			
19	19				
20	By: Its:	······································			
21		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
22	22				
23	23				
24	24				
25	25				
26	26				
27	27				
28	28				

1	she has the authority to sign on behalf of said person or entity and all persons covered by this Consent				
2	Decree. This Consent Decree may be executed in counterparts with each counterpart being interpreted				
3	as an original.				
4	IX. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION				
5	26. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms and conditions of this Consent				
6	Decree and to resolve any disputes arising hereunder for a period of five years from its entries. After				
7	this five years has elapsed, the City and the District's obligation to comply with the injunctive relief				
8	8 provided for herein shall terminate.				
9	9 IT IS SO AGREED AND STIPULATED:				
10	Dated, 2005 NORTHE	RN CALIFORNIA RIVER WATCH			
11	11				
12	By:				
13	13				
14	14 Dated, 2005 CITY OF	JKIAH			
15	15				
16	By:				
17	17				
18	18 Dated, 2005 UKIAH V	ALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT			
19	19				
20	20				
21	21 lts:				
22	22				
23	23				
24	24				
25	25				
26	26				
27	27				
20	20				

1	APPROVED AS TO FORM:		•
2	Dated: 11/17, 2005	LAW OFFICES OF J	ACK SILVER
3 4 5 6 7 8	Dated: <u>11/21</u> , 2005	RIVER WATCH  JARVIS FAY & DOF  By:  Rick W/Jarvis	FNORTHERN CALIFORNIA PORTO, LLP
10	IT IS SO ORDERED.	*	
11	Dated and entered into this	day of	, 2006.
12			
13 14		CLAUDIA WILKEN	
15		United States District Judge	
16 17	J:\Clients\107 [Ukiah]\(002 Riverwatch II]\Plead\Cons	ent Decree 11-10-05.wpd	
18			
19 20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25 26			
27			
28			

# **EXHIBIT A**

to [Proposed] Consent Decree and Order

### August 13, 2004

## CERTIFIED MAIL -RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Gerald L. Gall, Treatment Plant Supervisor Head of Operations City of Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant 300 Plant Road Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit Under the Clean Water Act

Dear Mr. Gall and/or other Head of Operations:

Section 505(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act ("Clean Water Act") requires that sixty (60) days prior to the initiation of a civil action under 33 U.S.C. §1365(a), §505(a) of the Clean Water Act, a citizen must give notice of his/her intent to sue to the alleged violator, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State in which the violations occur and the registered agent of the alleged violator.

The Clean Water Act requires that any notice regarding an alleged violation of an effluent standard or limitation or of an order with respect thereto, shall include sufficient information to permit the recipient to identify:

- (1) the specific standard, limitation, or order alleged to have been violated;
- (2) the activity alleged to constitute a violation:
- (3) the person or persons responsible for the alleged violation;
- (4) the location of the alleged violation;
- (5) the date or dates of such violation or a reasonable range of dates during which the alleged activity occurred; and,
- (6) the full name, address, and telephone number of the person giving notice.

Northern California River Watch ("River Watch") hereby places the City of Ukiah ("Ukiah") on notice that following the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date of this Notice, River Watch intends to bring suit in Federal District Court against Ukiah for its continuing violations of "an effluent standard or limitation", permit condition or requirement and/or "an order issued by the Administrator or a State with respect to such standard or limitation" under § 505(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)(1), the Code of Federal Regulations, and the Basin Plan, as exemplified by Ukiah's failure to comply with the conditions and limitations of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") Permit No. CA0022888, Order No. 99-65, ("Permit"), issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region ("RWQCB") pursuant to § 402 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, at the City of Ukiah Wastewater Treatment facility identified in said Permit, located in Mendocino County, California.

#### I. BACKGROUND

The Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters. The statute is structured in such a way that all discharge of pollutants is prohibited with the exception of several enumerated statutory exceptions. One such exception authorizes a polluter who has been issued a permit pursuant to the NPDES, to discharge designated pollutants at certain levels subject to certain conditions. The effluent discharge standards or limitations specified in a NPDES permit define the scope of the authorized exception to the 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a) prohibition, such that violation of a permit limit places a polluter in violation of 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a). Private parties may bring citizen's suits pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1365 to enforce effluent standards or limitations, which are defined as including violations of 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), 33 U.S.C. § 1365(f)(1).

The Clean Water Act provides that, in any given state or region, authority to administer the NPDES permitting system can be delegated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to a state or regional regulatory agency, provided that the applicable state or regional regulatory scheme under which the local agency operates satisfies certain criteria. 33 U.S.C. § 1342(b). In California, the EPA has granted authorization to a state regulatory apparatus, comprised of the State Water Resources Control Board and several subsidiary regional water quality control boards, to issue NPDES permits. The entity responsible for issuing NPDES permits and otherwise regulating discharges in the region at issue in this **Notice** is the RWQCB.

Ukiah owns, maintains, and operates a wastewater treatment, reuse and disposal facility ("the Facility") which serves the City of Ukiah and adjacent areas. The Facility is permitted to discharge into the Russian River.

Pursuant to § 301(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), the EPA and the State of California have formally concluded that violations by Ukiah of its NPDES Permit, are prohibited by law. Beneficial uses of the Russian River in the vicinity of the Facility and its discharges are being

affected in a prohibited manner by these violations. Pursuant to § 304 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311, the EPA and the State have identified Ukiah's Facility as a point source, the discharges from which contribute to violations of applicable water quality standards.

Ukiah's Facility is designed for an average dry weather flow of 2.8 mgd and wet weather flows of 7.0 mgd. Although current average dry weather flows are close to the Facility's design of 2.8 mgd, the wet weather flows often exceed the design capacity of 7.0 mgd. Due to its failing collection system the Facility experiences excess inflow and infiltration ("I&P") during the wet season. Excess I&I causes raw sewage to be discharged from the collection system. In addition to the I&I problems, the Facility also experiences collections system overflows, and the discharge of untreated waste. Although these overflows are often addressed by Ukiah, Ukiah fails to properly report these overflows to the RWQCB. By law Ukiah must report telephonically within 24 hours of a release and follow that oral report with a written report within five days of the event. Although it is estimated that Ukiah experiences on the average two collection system discharges per month. Ukiah only reports collection system discharges which reach surface waters.

During the non-discharge season (May 15<sup>th</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>) the discharge of waste from the Ukiah Facility to the Russian River is prohibited. During this time Ukiah discharges its waste from the Facility to three percolation ponds. These ponds are not lined and are hydrologically connected to the Russian River. Due to this hydrological connection, pollutants are discharged from these ponds to the Russian River or its tributaries in violation of Ukiah's Permit.<sup>1</sup>

Each month Ukiah is required to submit a discharge monitoring report ("DMR"). The DMR must include a certification and any noncompliance.<sup>2</sup> Ukiah consistently fails to certify its DMRs to the RWQCB and often fails to report non-compliance particularly discharges of untreated waste from the collection system at the Facility.

From August 13, 1999 through August 13, 2004 and continuing through the present, Ukiah has violated the requirements of its Permit, the Basin Plan and the Code of Federal Regulations as those requirements are referenced in Ukiah's Permit for discharge limitations, effluent limitations, receiving water

Page 5 of Order No. 99-65, Discharge Prohibitions A(2), A(3), and A(6)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Page 13 Section 11(c) and Page 15 Section 12(g) respectively, of Order No. 99-65.

limitations, monitoring and reporting requirements and unpermitted discharges due to failures in the collection system, as evidenced and reported by Ukiah in its monthly self monitoring reports ("SMRs") or DMRs, its own testing data compiled in compliance with its Permit or other orders of the RWQCB, and other documentation filed with the RWQCB or maintained by Ukiah in its normal course of business. These violations also include the lack of data required from

Ukiah as evidence of its compliance with the Clean Water Act or enabling regulations. Furthermore, these violations are continuing.

#### II. VIOLATIONS

The Clean Water Act requires that any Notice regarding an alleged violation of an effluent standard or limitation or of an order with respect thereto, shall include sufficient information to permit the recipient to identify:

1. The specific standard, limitation, or order alleged to have been violated.

To comply with this requirement River Watch has identified Ukiah's NPDES permit with specificity. It has also used the actual language of the Permit to describe the various violations.

2. The activity alleged to constitute a violation.

To comply with this requirement River Watch has set forth below narratives describing with particularity the activities leading to violations.

3. The person or persons responsible for the alleged violation.

The person or persons responsible for the alleged violations are Ukiah and its employees responsible for compliance with Ukiah's Permit.

4. The location of the alleged violation.

The location or locations of the various violations are identified in Ukiah's Permit and in records either created or maintained by or for Ukiah which relate to Ukiah's Facility and related activities.

5. The date or dates of violation or a reasonable range of dates during which the

alleged activity occurred.

River Watch has examined Ukiah's records for the period from August 13, 1999 through August 13, 2004. Therefore, the range of dates covered by this **Notice** is from August 13, 1999 through August 13, 2004. River Watch will from time to time update this **Notice** to include all violations which occur after the range of dates currently covered by this **Notice**. Some of the violations are continuous and therefore each day is a violation. The remainder of the violations and dates are evidenced in Ukiah's own records or the records of other agencies including the RWQCB, County Health and the local police department.

6. The full name, address, and telephone number of the person giving notice.

This information can be found at the end of this Notice.

The following violations occurred between August 13, 1999 and August 13, 2004 and are evidenced in Ukiah's records and the RWQCB records identified in this **Notice**. The listings below are organized around Ukiah's Permit using the same headings as in the Permit itself.

### A. Discharge Prohibitions

### **Violations**

**Description** 

1825

Discharge of raw sewage due to collection system wastewater overflows in violation of A(2), A(3) and A(5) of Order No. 99-65.

Collection system overflows include discharges caused by surface overflows directly from overflowing manholes as well as underground exfiltration reaching waters of the State. Surface overflows are evidenced in Ukiah's Sewage System Overflow Reports, such as those reported on 10/31/2002 regarding overflows which occurred on 10/24/2002 and 10/28/02, and overflows reported on 5/19/2003 and 1/28/03. All such reports contain a detailed description of the date, location, conditions and activities constituting the violation. Underground discharges are alleged to have been continuous throughout the five year period from August 13, 1999 through August 13, 2004. Evidence to support the allegation of underground discharge of raw sewage exists in Ukiah's own data regarding the number of connections in the service area, estimates of average daily volume of wastewater per connection, and influent flow volumes to the treatment plant reported in Ukiah's DMRs, generally referred to as mass balance data. Additional evidence of underground discharges is discoverable through a video inspection of the collection system and testing of

waterways adjacent to sewer lines for nutrients, pathogens and other constituents indicative of sewage contamination, such as caffeine.

Remedial steps Ukiah could take to avoid future discharges of raw sewage from its collection system include a thorough, ongoing video inspection of its sewage lines, sampling of creeks adjacent to sewage lines for tracer elements such as caffeine and commitment of adequate resources to repair damaged sections in a timely manner as they are disclosed by the video inspections, creek studies and surface overflows.

Failure to report violations of discharge of raw sewage due to collection system wastewater surface overflows in violation of, A(2), A(3), A(5) and Section 12(g) of Order 99-65.

Evidence of failure to report discharge of raw sewage due to collection system wastewater surface overflows exists in Ukiah's records of incident calls and listings of sewage stoppages which resulted in overflows not reported because they allegedly did not reach surface waters by overland drainage, such as a spill at Dora and Clay in Ukiah on 9/28/00, and a spill from the manhole at Gobbi and Oak in Ukiah on 3/17/02.

- A(2) DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS Creation of a pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by Section 13050 of the California Water Code (CWC) is prohibited. [Health & Safety Code, Section 5411]
- 2. A(3) Discharge Prohibitions -There shall be no discharge of waste to land, which is not owned, or under agreement to use by the discharger.
- A(5) Discharge Prohibitions-The discharge of untreated waste from anywhere within the collection, treatment, or disposal facility is prohibited.
- 4. 12(g) Noncompliance reporting: The permittee shall report any non compliance at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The written submission shall contain a description of the non-compliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times and, if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate

and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance.

- Discharge of waste from Ukiah's Facility percolation ponds to the Russian River between May 15<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> in violation of A(6) Order No. 99-65. Violations are alleged to have been continuous over the five year period from August 13, 1999 through August 13, 2004, between May 15<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- Failure to report violations of waste discharge from Ukiah's Facility percolation ponds to the Russian River between May 15<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> in violation of A(6) and Section 12(g) of Order No. 99-65.

 A(6) Discharge Prohibitions-The discharge of waste from the City of Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant and Disposal Facilities to the Russian River or its tributaries during the period May 15 through September 30 each year is prohibited.

Remedial steps Ukiah could take to avoid future discharges of waste from its storage ponds to the Russian River during the period May 15<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> include lining the ponds, which the RWQCB is requiring for new ponds, and complete reuse during the non-discharge period.

These enumerated violations are based upon review of the RWQCB files for Ukiah as well as monitoring data submitted by Ukiah to the RWQCB.

Pursuant to § 309(d) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(d), each of the above described violations of the Clean Water Act subjects the violator to a penalty of up to \$27,500.00 per day per violation for violations occurring within five (5) years prior to the initiation of a citizen enforcement action.

In addition to civil penalties, River Watch will seek injunctive relief preventing further violations, pursuant to Clean Water Act § 505(d), 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a) & (d), and such other relief as is permitted by law. Lastly, Clean Water Act § 505(d), 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d), permits prevailing parties to recover costs and fees.

River Watch is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the waters of the State of California including all rivers, creeks, streams and ground water in Northern California. River Watch is organized under the laws of the State of California. Its address is 74 Main Street, Suite D., P.O. Box 1360, Occidental, CA, 95465. It's telephone number is 707-874-2579.

The violations of Ukiah as set forth in this **Notice** effect the health and enjoyment of members of River Watch who reside and recreate in the Russian River area. The members of River Watch use this watershed for domestic water supply, agricultural water supply, recreation, sports, fishing, swimming, shell fish harvesting, hiking, photography, nature walks and the like. Their health, use and enjoyment of this natural resource is specifically impaired by Ukiah's violations of the Clean Water Act.

River Watch has retained legal counsel to represent them in this matter. All communications should be addressed to:

Jack Silver, Esq.
Post Office Box 5469
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-5469
Tel. 707-528-8175

River Watch believes this **Notice** sufficiently states grounds for filing suit. At the close of the 60-day notice period or shortly thereafter River Watch intends to file a citizen's suit under § 505(a) of the Clean Water Act against Ukiah for violations at its Facility.

During the 60-day notice period, River Watch is willing to discuss effective remedies for the violations noted in this **Notice**; however, if Ukiah wishes to pursue such discussions in the absence of litigation, it is suggested that Ukiah initiate those discussions within the next twenty (20) days so that they may be completed before the end of the 60-day notice period. River Watch does not intend to delay the filing of a lawsuit if discussions are continuing when that period ends.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Jack Silver

cc:

Michael Leavitt, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 3213A
Washington, D.C. 20460

Wayne Nastri, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Celeste Cantü, Executive Director State Water Resources Control Board P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, California 95812-0100

David Rapport, City Attorney City of Ukiah Rapport & Marston 405 W. Perkins Street Ukiah, CA 95482

Head of Public Works City of Ukiah Department of Public Works 300 Seminary Avenue Ukiah, CA 95482

# **EXHIBIT B**

to [Proposed] Consent Decree and Order

# Law Office of Jack Silver

P.O. Box 5469 Phone 707-528-8175 warrioreco@yahoo.com Santa Rosa, California 95402 Fax 707-542-7139



April 13, 2005

## CERTIFIED MAIL -RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Head of Operations/Managing Agent Ukiah Valley Sanitation District 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1090 Ukiah, California 95482

RE: Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit Under the Clean Water Act

Dear Head of Operations:

Section 505(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act ("Clean Water Act") requires that sixty (60) days prior to the initiation of a civil action under 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a), § 505(a) of the Clean Water Act, a citizen must give notice of his/her intent to sue to the alleged violator, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State in which the violations occur and the registered agent of the alleged violator.

Northern California River Watch ("River Watch") hereby places Ukiah Valley Sanitation District ("District") on notice that following the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date of this Notice, River Watch intends to bring suit in Federal District Court against the District for its continuing violations of "an effluent standard or limitation", permit condition or requirement and/or "an order issued by the Administrator or a State with respect to such standard or limitation" under § 505(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)(1), the Code of Federal Regulations, and the Basin Plan, as exemplified by the incidents of non-compliance listed below.

#### I. BACKGROUND

The Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters. The statute is structured in such a way that all discharge of pollutants is prohibited with the exception of several enumerated statutory exceptions. One such exception authorizes a polluter who has been issued a permit pursuant to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES"), to discharge designated pollutants at certain levels subject to certain conditions. The effluent discharge standards or limitations specified in a NPDES permit define the scope of the authorized exception to the 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a) prohibition, such that violation of a permit limit places a polluter in violation of 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a). Private parties may bring citizen's

suits pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1365 to enforce effluent standards or limitations, which are defined as including violations of 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), 33 U.S.C. § 1365(f)(1).

The Clean Water Act provides that, in any given state or region, authority to administer the NPDES permitting system can be delegated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to a state or regional regulatory agency, provided that the applicable state or regional regulatory scheme under which the local agency operates satisfies certain criteria. 33 U.S.C. § 1342(b). In California, the EPA has granted authorization to a state regulatory apparatus, comprised of the State Water Resources Control Board and several subsidiary regional water quality control boards, to issue NPDES permits. The entity responsible for issuing NPDES permits and otherwise regulating discharges in the region at issue in this Notice is the Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, ("RWQCB").

The City of Ukiah ("City") owns, maintains, and operates a wastewater treatment, reuse and disposal facility ("Facility") which serves the City and adjacent areas. The Facility is permitted to discharge into the Russian River. The City also transports and treats wastewater from the District. The Central Office of the District is located at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1090, Ukiah, CA 95482. The District is responsible for operating and maintaining the collection system outside the City limits. The City performs maintenance under contract on collection system sewer lines owned by the District. The District and the City are jointly and severally liable for unauthorized discharges from the District's collection system.

The Facility is designed for an average dry weather flow of 2.8 mgd and wet weather flows of 7.0 mgd. Although current average dry weather flows are close to the Facility's design of 2.8 mgd, the wet weather flows often exceed the design capacity of 7.0 mgd. Due to its failing collection systems, the District experiences excess inflow and infiltration ("I&I") during the wet season. Excess I&I causes raw sewage to be discharged from the collection system. In addition to the I&I problems, the collection system also experiences overflows, and the discharge of untreated waste. The collection system's I&I problems have caused discharges of raw sewage to surface waters in violation of the prohibition of the Clean Water Act with regard to discharging a pollutant from a point source to waters of the United States without a NPDES permit, Clean Water Act § 301(a), 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).

Pursuant to § 301(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), the EPA and the State of California have formally concluded that violations by the District are prohibited by law. Beneficial uses of the Russian River in the vicinity of collection system discharges are being affected in a prohibited manner by these violations. Pursuant to § 304 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311, the EPA and the State have identified the District's collection system as a point source, the discharges from which contribute to violations of applicable water quality standards.

From April 13, 2000 through April 13, 2005 and continuing through the present, the District has violated the Clean Water Act, the Basin Plan and the Code of Federal Regulations for discharging pollutants to waters of the United States. from its sewage collection system, without a NPDES permit. Said violations are evidenced and reported by staff at the City's wastewater treatment and disposal plant in the plant's monthly self monitoring reports ("SMRs") or daily monitoring reports ("DMRs"), its own testing data compiled in compliance with its

Waste Discharge Orders or other orders of the RWQCB, and other documentation filed with the RWQCB or in its possession. Furthermore these violations are continuing.

#### II. VIOLATIONS

The Clean Water Act requires that any notice regarding an alleged violation of an effluent standard or limitation or of an order with respect thereto, shall include sufficient information to permit the recipient to identify:

1. The specific standard, limitation, or order alleged to have been violated.

To comply with this requirement River Watch has identified the prohibition against discharging a pollutant from a point source to waters of the United States without a NPDES permit, Clean Water Act § 301(a), 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), as the specific standard alleged to have been violated.

2. The activity alleged to constitute a violation.

To comply with this requirement River Watch has set forth narratives below, describing with particularity the activities leading to violations.

3. The person or persons responsible for the alleged violation.

The person or persons responsible for the alleged violations are the District and its employees and contractors responsible for maintenance of the District's sewage collection system.

4. The location of the alleged violation.

The location or locations of the various violations are identified in records either created or maintained by or for the City which relate to its Facility and related activities.

5. The date or dates of violation or a reasonable range of dates during which the alleged activity occurred.

River Watch has examined the City's records for the period from April 13, 2000 through April 13, 2005. Therefore, the range of dates covered by this Notice is from April 13, 2000 through April 13, 2005. River Watch will from time to time update this Notice to include all violations which occur after the range of dates currently covered by this Notice. Some of the violations are continuous and therefore each day is a violation. The remainder of the violations and dates are evidenced in the City's own records or the records of other agencies including the RWQCB, County Health and the local police department.

6. The full name, address, and telephone number of the person giving notice.

This information can be found at the end of this Notice.

The following violations occurred between April 13, 2000 and April 13, 2005 and are evidenced in the City's records and the RWQCB records identified in this Notice.

## A. Discharge Prohibitions

**Violations** 

**Description** 

182

Discharge of raw sewage due to collection system wastewater overflows. Collection system overflows include discharges caused by surface overflows directly from overflowing manholes as well as underground exfiltration reaching waters of the United States. Surface overflows are evidenced in the City's Sewage System Overflow Reports, such as those reported on 10/31/2002 regarding overflows which occurred on 10/24/2002 and 10/28/02, and overflows reported on 5/19/2003 and 1/28/03. All such reports contain a detailed description of the date, location, conditions and activities constituting the violation. Underground discharges are alleged to have been continuous throughout the five year period from April 13, 2000 through April 13, 2005. Evidence to support the allegation of underground discharge of raw sewage exists in the City's data regarding the number of connections in the service area, estimates of average daily volume of wastewater per connection, and influent flow volumes to the treatment plant reported in the City's DMRs, generally referred to as mass balance data. Additional evidence of underground discharges is discoverable through a video inspection of the collection system and testing of waterways adjacent to sewer lines for nutrients, pathogens and other constituents indicative of sewage contamination, such as caffeine.

Remedial steps the District could take to avoid future discharges of raw sewage from its collection system include a thorough, ongoing video inspection of its sewage lines, sampling of creeks adjacent to sewage lines for tracer elements such as caffeine, a greater commitment of resources to source reduction for elements such as grease, and commitment of adequate resources to repair damaged sections in a timely manner as they are disclosed by the video inspections, creek studies and surface overflows.

These enumerated violations are based upon review of the RWQCB files for the District and the City as well as monitoring data submitted by the City to the RWQCB.

Pursuant to § 309(d) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(d), each of the above described violations of the Clean Water Act subjects the violator to a penalty of up to \$27,500.00 per day per violation for violations occurring within five (5) years prior to the initiation of a citizen enforcement action.

In addition to civil penalties, River Watch will seek injunctive relief preventing further violations, pursuant to Clean Water Act § 505(d), 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a) & (d), and such other

relief as is permitted by law. Lastly, Clean Water Act § 505(d), 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d), permits prevailing parties to recover costs and fees.

River Watch is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the waters of the State of California including all rivers, creeks, streams and ground water in Northern California. River Watch is organized under the laws of the State of California. Its address is 6741 Sebastopol Ave., Suite 140, Sebastopol, CA 95472. Telephone 707-824-4372.

The violations of the District as set forth in this Notice effect the health and enjoyment of members of River Watch who reside and recreate in the Russian River area. The members of River Watch use this watershed for domestic water supply, agricultural water supply, recreation, sports, fishing, swimming, shell fish harvesting, hiking, photography, nature walks and the like. Their health, use and enjoyment of this natural resource is specifically impaired by the District's violations of the Clean Water Act.

River Watch has retained legal counsel to represent them in this matter. All communications should be addressed to:

Jerry Bernhaut, Esq. Jack Silver, Esq. Law Office of Jack Silver Post Office Box 5469 Santa Rosa, CA 95402-5469 Tel. 707-528-8175

River Watch believes this Notice sufficiently states grounds for filing suit. At the close of the 60-day notice period or shortly thereafter River Watch intends to file a citizen's suit under § 505(a) of the Clean Water Act against the District for violations at the Facility.

During the 60-day notice period, River Watch is willing to discuss effective remedies for the violations noted in this **Notice**; however, if the District wishes to pursue such discussions in the absence of litigation, it is suggested that the District initiate those discussions within the next twenty (20) days so that they may be completed before the end of the 60-day notice period. River Watch does not intend to delay the filing of a lawsuit if discussions are continuing when that period ends.

Xery truly yours.

ack Silver

cc:

Stephen L. Johnson, Acting Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Ariel Rios Building 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Mail Code 3213A Washington, D.C. 20460

Wayne Nastri, Regional Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 75 Hawthorne St. San Francisco, CA 94105

Celeste Cantü, Executive Director State Water Resources Control Board P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, California 95812-0100

David Rapport, City Attorney City of Ukiah Rapport & Marston 405 W. Perkins Street Ukiah, CA 95482

Head of Public Works City of Ukiah Department of Public Works 300 Seminary Avenue Ukiah, CA 95482

#### **DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

1 2 I, the undersigned, declare as follows: I am a citizen of the United States and employed in the County of Alameda; I am over the age 3 of eighteen years and not a party to the within entitled action; my business address is Jarvis, Fav & Doporto, LLP, Oakland, California 94612 4 On November 21, 2005, I served the within: NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT 5 **DECREE AND ORDER** on the parties in this action, by placing a true copy thereof in a sealed envelope(s), each envelope addressed as follows: 6 Michael Leavitt, Administrator Jack Silver, Esq. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Jerry Bernhaut, Esq. Law Offices of Jack Silver 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Post Office Box 5469 Mail Code 3213A Washington, D.C. 20460 9 Santa Rosa, CA 95402 10 Alberto R. Gonzales, U.S. Attorney General 11 U.S. Department of Justice Wayne Nastri, Regional Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20530 Region 9 12 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105 13 (By First Class Mail) I caused each such envelope, with postage thereon fully prepaid, 14 to be placed in the United States mail to be mailed by First Class mail at Oakland, 15 California. (By Messenger) I caused each such envelope to be delivered by messenger to the 16 () offices of each addressee above. 17 (BY CALIFORNIA OVERNIGHT) I caused each such envelope to be sent by California Overnight to the offices of each addressee above 18 (By Facsimile) I caused each such document(s) to be sent via facsimile to the 19 () addressee(s) above. 20 (By Overnight Mail) I caused each such envelope to be sent by Overnight Mail to **(X)** 21 the offices of each addressee above. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing 22 23 is true and correct. Executed November 21, 2005 at Oakland, California. 24 26 Bobette M. Tolmer 27

C04 04518 CW

28

1

Declaration of Service